

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Air Power
Quote of the Week

"To obtain mastery of the air, and to keep it, means continually fighting for it."

— Hugh Trenchard

Vol. 50, No. 15

www.laughlin.af.mil

April 19, 2002

Other bases help Laughlin weather storm

By Senior Airman Brad Pettit
Editor

Four Air Education and Training Command pilot training bases lent Laughlin a helping hand after one of the worst hailstorms in a decade damaged several base jets here earlier this month.

In all, 32 T-37s were flown in from Vance Air Force Base, Okla.; Sheppard and Randolph AFB; and Columbus AFB, Miss., to assist Laughlin in meeting its mission of "training the world's best pilots."

Though more than 100 Laughlin planes were damaged in the storm, Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, said little effect will be felt on Laughlin's ability

to meet its mission.

"The impact on our training mission will be minimal," said Rosborg. "Thanks to the help of other pilot training bases, and by scheduling training with minimum turnarounds between aircraft, Laughlin will easily be able to weather this storm."

The colonel said that the help given by other training bases is representative of the strong relationship AETC bases have with one another.

"AETC bases share a common mission," he said. "We train pilots, and sometimes an unforeseen event can affect the mission of a particular base. I thank all of the AETC bases that have helped Laughlin keep student pilots flying."



Photo by Dave Niebergall

Shown are different tail flashes of T-37s that were flown in from several Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training bases to help Laughlin maintain its mission following the April 7 hailstorm, which damaged more than 100 base jets.

A few words about the environment

Mark Peterson of the Texas Forest Service speaks at an Arbor Day celebration at the base picnic grounds April 12. Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, read the Arbor Day proclamation and dedicated an ash tree in honor of Arbor Day. (See page 5 for an article and photos featuring the base's Earthweek participation).



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Event to recognize volunteers

By Senior Airman
Brad Pettit
Editor

The Family Support Center volunteer program will recognize Laughlin volunteers and serve free ice cream at 1:30 p.m. Thursday during an ice cream social at the Fiesta Center.

The ice cream social is part of National Volunteer Week, which is celebrated April 21-27 to recognize and celebrate the efforts of all military and civilian volunteers at the local, state and national levels.

Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander, will speak at the event, followed by a presentation of the prestigious Volunteer Excellence Award. This award honors one civilian volunteer who best exemplifies the giving spirit and contributions of the civilian volunteer force.

"We want to extend our appreciation to all the military and civilian volunteers for their selfless dedication to the Laughlin and Del Rio communities," said Bobby Barrera, Family Support

Center director. "They sacrifice their time and energy at all community levels and really deserve the praise."

Barrera said volunteering has always been a strong tradition at Laughlin.

"If this kind of support was seen worldwide, volunteers could definitely change the world for the better," he said.

The social is open to all volunteers, family members and their supervisors.

For more information, call Mitchel Frazier at 298-5620.

the inside
Scoop

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Commanders' Corner

By Maj. Donna Mitchell

47th Mission Support Squadron Commander

Bloom where you are planted

Spring is a time of renewal. Trees and shrubs explode in green, flowers unveil their hues and people reaffirm commitments or establish new ones. For some, renewal may involve a change in attitude.

A positive attitude is the key that unlocks the door to many opportunities in life. How is your attitude? Is it reminiscent of a fragrant flower, or is more like an arctic blast. If your attitude resembles the latter, work on blooming where you're planted.

The Mojave Desert is home to a variety of beautiful blooming plants. What a pleasant surprise to see vibrant colors emerge from such inhospitable surroundings. Like these

plants, you too can bloom where you're planted. Although some equate their tour at Laughlin to being in a desert, quite the opposite is true. It is an oasis of opportunity.

Want to concentrate on self-improvement? Consider off-duty education through a local school or skills development through our morale, welfare and recreation facilities.

Want to invest in someone else? "Adopt" a senior citizen, mentor a child or teach a class.

Just want to occupy time? Contact the Family Support Center for a list of volunteer opportunities in the local community.

Just think, Laughlin is one of the few places where you can enjoy a

top-notch marina and golf course without a country club membership.

If you find yourself ruminating over this assignment, stop and get plugged into the Laughlin and Del Rio communities. You can achieve a sense of fulfillment by channeling your energies into creative ideas to enhance your workplace, our base and our local community. A positive attitude is the fertile ground into which personal involvement is planted. Share your beauty with others; bloom where you are planted.

"Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives." – William James (1842-1910).

Top Three Talk

By Master Sgt. Joseph Baker

Family Support Center deputy director



Family Support Center offers many opportunities

As the deputy director of the Family Support Center, I have the privilege of working with the best support agency in the United States Air Force.

Unfortunately, I don't believe enough people are taking advantage of the wide array of free services and programs that are at their disposal; services that, on the outside, could cost them substantially.

The Family Support Center is not just for families. Sure, we offer seminars in child-rearing, family dynamics, teen issues, etc., but we also offer classes on subjects ranging from investments to veterans benefits and divorce and single parent issues. I believe that the Family Support Center is one of the most under-used

resources on most bases. Until I was recently selected for this special duty position, I had no idea what the FSC was really about. Since then, I have discovered that the services available are varied enough to meet the needs of most everyone in the military community.

Our extensive resource library has videos and books on everything from local area attractions to resume writing. Aida Gutierrez has programs and services covering the entire life cycle, from birth to adolescence, adulthood, relationships and issues dealing with elderly care.

Does your spouse need a job? Sabrina Pena or Christine Engel will not only help him or her find a job, they'll help with resumes, interview-

ing techniques and ensure that your spouse gets the job that best suits his or her needs.

Would you or your spouse be interested in providing a volunteer service to the base or local community? If so, stop in and meet Mitch Frazier or Roslyn Battle.

We also have a loan locker that carries spare beds, irons, dishes, etc.

Are you getting ready to deploy? Tech Sgt. April Melancon will help with everything from wills to financial assistance to ensure your family is taken care of during your absence.

Are you having money troubles? Do you want to be a millionaire when you retire? Tech Sgt. Mary Davis

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47th FTW motto

FPCON Bravo

Laughlin is currently in Force Protection Condition Bravo. All people should remain vigilant and report suspicious activity to security forces at 298-5100.

Why do we fight?

By Maj. Dave Saville

Cannon Air Base, N.M.

I discovered one of the most powerful lessons I ever learned in a short book titled "What They Fought For, 1861-1865," by James M. McPherson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Battle Cry For Freedom."

The book was McPherson's summary of hundreds of letters written by soldiers of the Civil War in both the Union and Confederate armies.

I had always wondered why so many thousands of Americans would sacrifice themselves on the battlefield, fighting against each other. It baffled me. All other books I have read about the Civil War failed to answer this fundamental question for me. But reading this unique book clarified for me why they fought and why I am ready to fight.

The Civil War was the first war in history in which the average foot soldier was literate, and the last war in history in which personal correspondence was free of censorship or security guidelines. Civil War soldiers wrote lots of letters, and many of those letters are available today, preserved by families and museums.

The most common motivation McPherson discovered in the letters, from both sides, was to preserve liberty and government "of the people, by the people, for the people." They understood they were responsible for preventing it from vanishing from the earth.

How did they develop this sense of global responsibility? McPherson theorizes that most of these soldiers learned their duty to defend the Constitution by sitting on their great-grandfathers' and -grandmothers' laps and hearing stories of the Revolutionary War.

When the war began in 1861, it had only been 80 years since the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown and the end of the Revolutionary War. When the Civil War soldiers were children, they learned what the first war was all about from those who lived it.

When the Southern states seceded from the

Union over issues of state sovereignty and slavery, the stage was set for these young Americans to rise up and serve the Constitution themselves. The South saw the future of America one way while the North saw it another way.

The letters from the soldiers reveal that the average soldier felt a profound burden to personally ensure democracy survived.

This sentiment was captured in President Lincoln's Gettysburg address. He said, "We are highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Like the soldiers who died on that battlefield after writing these letters, Lincoln knew democracy was fragile, and its future hung in the balance, affecting not only Americans, but the whole world.

Although America is much stronger now, the ideals of this country based on liberty are still under attack. The terrorist attacks on America over the past few years, including the attacks on Khobar Towers, the USS Cole and the World Trade Center and Pentagon, remind us that we have the same job our forefathers had at Yorktown and Gettysburg.

We have our chance to "ante up," like our fathers did at Normandy, Inchon and Vietnam. We can now add to that list Kuwait, Kosovo and Afghanistan. It is in these conflicts that we find the stories and lessons we will tell our grandchildren as we bounce them on our knees.

Imagine if our children and grandchildren do not learn the same sense of responsibility and patriotism we received from our forefathers. That would be a tragedy too colossal for words to describe. We must ensure the future of a government "of the people, by the people, for the people" or we risk losing it from the earth.

That is why we fight.

(Courtesy of Air Force Link)

communities, including Del Rio and Ciudad Acuna.

And when you retire or separate, we help you make that transition with our Transition Assistance Program seminars. We ensure that you have every conceivable tool at your disposal to become a civilian with as little trauma to you and your family as possible.

I like to think of the FSC and the services we provide as one of those fringe benefits of being a card carrying member of the Air Force. Come give us a try; you'll be glad you did.

'FSC,' from page 2

can assist with all aspects of financial health.

Have you been hit with an assignment? Not only do we have information videos and packages for your next base, we have computers available which will allow you to investigate surrounding communities to assist you in your house hunting efforts.

Have you recently been assigned to Laughlin? We have tons of info on the surrounding

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.



Rick Rosborg
Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

Laughlin kudos

Dear Col. Rosborg,

On behalf of all the residents of Air Force Village II who were on the outstanding tour of your base, I want to extend our sincere thanks for the hospitality of you and your staff.

It was great to get out on the flight line again and to see and hear the activity that brought back a lot of memories for all of us. It was also an education for us to see the changes that have occurred in aircraft and technology since we retired.

Going into the flying squadron's mission planning rooms was a special treat for me. Talking to those young student pilots restored my faith in the younger generation. They are very intelligent and highly motivated. The future of the Air Force is in good hands.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) James R. McCarthy

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force's vision of aerospace power

Unity of command

Unity of command is the principle and practice of making a single personal legally and morally responsible for a particular military activity or organization.

Newslines

New spouses get oriented

Heartlink will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Support Center. Space is limited to the first 24 spouses. Free child care will be available.

The Heartlink program is an interactive way for spouses new to the military (five years or less), to become aware of the Air Force mission, customs, traditions, protocol and support resources and services available at Laughlin.

The program has six major activities in which vital information for spouses is presented in an interactive and enjoyable manner. The activities contain icebreakers, games and presentations to make the experience worthwhile and fun for spouses.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information on Heartlink or to secure a spot for free child care, call 298-5620.

Health group to meet

A Community Health Improvement Coalition focus group will meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Dink Wardlaw Center, 300 17th St. in Del Rio, to assess the wellness of the local community.

The CHIC is a group of people from Del Rio and Laughlin interested in promoting health and fitness in the community.

CHIC recently received a grant to provide programs on cardiovascular health to the local community and seeks the community's input. All are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, call Maj. Nina Watson at 298-6464.

Women's group to meet

A Christian Women Fellowship meeting will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. April 27 in the chapel fellowship hall.

The topic is "Knowing God's Standards." There will be door prizes and fellowship. This fellowship meeting is open to everyone.

For more information, call Sandra Whiteside at 298-1351.

Posted resumés on Web

A seminar will be held at 2 p.m. April 30 in the Family Support Center conference room to give tips to base people on how to post their resumes on the Internet.

To sign up, call 298-5620 by 4:30 p.m. April 26.



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Clear for takeoff

A Laughlin T-37 takes off on the resurfaced inside runway Wednesday. The runway was closed March 1 because of its weathered condition and a problem with drainage. The runway re-opened for flights Monday, almost two weeks ahead of scheduled completion.

Base siren test procedure changes

Compiled from staff reports

The 47th Flying Training Wing command post has changed the way the Friday noon Whelen test will be conducted.

The weekly test will now consist of a voice announcement, which will state, "This is a test of the base warning system." Then, the siren test will be made and concluded with one more voice announcement.

The siren that will be sounded is the natural disaster tone, which means to take cover in a real situation, and it will last approximately 10 to 15

seconds. The actual tone will be used to ensure the system is operational in the event that it must be used.

In the event of an actual emergency, the residents of the FamCamp and trailer park will report to the billeting office for shelter. Housing residents will remain in their houses and take cover. People in government facilities such as the fitness center or commissary should remain there until the all clear has been given.

For more information on this new procedure, call the command post at 298-5167.

Laughlin student pilot graduates earn awards

Compiled from staff reports

Selected pilots of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-07 recently received awards for their flying and academic accomplishments while in pilot training.

Daedalian Award

Capt. Robert Basom (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Academic Training Award

1st Lt. Tim Pesek (*Fighter/Bomber*)

Capt. Robert Basom (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Flying Training Award

Capt. Kevin Silknitter (*Fighter/Bomber*)

2nd Lt. Corey Akiyama (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Distinguished Graduates

Capt. Kevin Silknitter (*Fighter/Bomber*)

Capt. Robert Basom (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Outstanding Officer

Capt. Tom Yeager (*Fighter/Bomber*)

Order of Daedalians

AETC Commander's Trophy

Capt. Kevin Silknitter (*Fighter/Bomber*)

Capt. Robert Basom (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Citizenship award

1st Lt. Robert Selmer (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Outstanding Second Lieutenant Award

2nd Lt. Nelson Bennett (*Tanker/Airlift*)

Laughlin celebrates Earthweek, Arbor Day

By Malia Cox

47th Civil Engineer Squadron
environmental scientist

The 47th Flying Training Wing celebrated Earthweek and Arbor Day with a week of cleanup and beautification projects that ended with an Arbor Day ceremony April 12 at the base picnic grounds.

The Arbor Day ceremony began with opening remarks and a reading of the Arbor day proclamation by Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander. Mark Peterson of the Texas Forest Service was the keynote speaker for the event.

An ash tree was dedicated at the ceremony, which was originally planted on the site of the new base operations building. In order to make room for the new facility, the tree had to be moved.

"Earthweek 2002 has been a real success story," said Peterson. "Everyone in the Laughlin community really came together to make the base a better place to live, work and play."

Earthweek was celebrated after an April 7 hailstorm passed over Laughlin. In order to help clean up the mess left by the storm, a crew consisting of volunteers from the base community picked up trash and castaway items from less-traveled areas of the base and the Air Force marina. During the cleanup, many items were found, including an old water heater, an engine block and a recliner and sofa set.



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

The Tree City USA flag flew at the wing headquarters building April 12. Laughlin was named a Tree City USA for eight consecutive years because of its environmental stewardship.

"I think [Earthweek] is a great way to promote XLence at Laughlin by increasing awareness of individual responsibility," said 2nd Lt. Jadee Bell, 47th CES cultural and natural resources manager. "This not only makes Laughlin look good, it allows the base community to be involved in environmental stewardship."

Laughlin has been nationally recognized as a Tree City USA because of its commitment to the environment for eight consecutive years.

"An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement – a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years," said John Rosenow, National Arbor Day Foundation president. "The Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement."



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Pat Woods, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, helps clean up the Air Force marina April 12. The cleanup was done in honor of Earth Week, which encourages people to help maintain the environment. Approximately 45 Laughlin people assisted in the three-hour marina cleanup.



**The Air Force
rewards
good ideas with
money.
Check out the
IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://
ideas.satx.disa.mil](https://ideas.satx.disa.mil),
or call 298-5236.**

Tricare reimburses Prime enrollees for travel expenses

By 1st Lt. Mark Bain

47th Medical Support Squadron

business opportunities beneficiary support flight commander

Tricare Prime enrollees may now be reimbursed for exact expenses if a beneficiary is referred for medically necessary specialty care to a facility more than 100 miles from his or her primary care manager.

Tricare Prime beneficiaries seeking reimbursement should contact their local Military Treatment Facility or lead agent beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator for assistance. Telephone numbers and addresses for BCACs are available on the Tricare website at www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/BCACDirectory.htm.

To qualify for reimbursement, beneficiaries must go to the business operations and beneficiaries services flight, room 187, at the Laughlin Clinic to schedule a briefing and pick up the necessary forms. The briefing must be completed at least two days prior to the appointment. Failure to contact the flight prior to your appointment could cause delays or nonpayment of travel expenses. Beneficiaries must submit the required forms, a copy of referral and appropriate receipts to the BOBS flight for processing.

Only actual expenses may be reimbursed. It is recommended that the beneficiary keep a copy of all the paperwork submitted for his or her records. This entitlement is retroactive for travel dating back to October 30, 2000.

The new Prime enrollee travel entitlement does not apply to travel expenses incurred by active-duty servicemembers, active-duty family members residing with their sponsors overseas or to travel costs of beneficiaries referred under Department of Defense specialized treatment programs, which are reimbursed by other travel entitlements. Nor does it apply to transportation expenses resulting from emergency care covered under the basic Tricare Standard benefit.

Additionally, a nonmedical attendant may receive travel reimbursement under a specific set of conditions. The new law authorizes one nonmedical attendant to accompany a nonactive-duty Tricare patient. This nonmedical attendance travel benefit became effective April 1 and is retroactive to Dec. 28.

It is important to contact the BOBS flight or lead agent office prior to the appointment to ensure that a nonmedical attendant is approved and the appropriate paperwork can be filled out.

For details, call Senior Airman Theda Robinson at 298-6320.

Thinking about getting out? Think again!

Call Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis, 47th Flying Training Wing career assistance adviser, at 298-5456 for guidance.

Please recycle this newspaper.

2002 down days announced

Gen. Don Cook, Air Education and Training Command Commander, announced the 2002 dates the command will observe as family days or training stand down days.

This year July 5, Nov. 29, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 are the designated dates.

The family day, or down day, means military members will get the day off, giving most in the command an extra break for the observed holidays.

In his announcement, the general stated the days are in appreciation for the tremendous accomplishments, sacrifices and hard work of AETC people this year.

“During your holiday activities, please think safety first,” the general said. “Use common sense, drive defensively, and wear your safety seat belts.”

People who have questions about their day off should check with their supervisors, who will determine mission-essential staffing. For military members required to perform duty during the holiday, commanders are encouraged to grant compensatory time off during the first week following the holiday, mission requirements permitting, the general said.

Under current rules for Department of Defense civilians, commanders can encourage liberal leave, use of previously earned compensatory time or use of already approved time-off awards, the general said. Group time-off awards, specifically for the purpose of giving the day off, are prohibited by Air Force Instruction 36-1004, “Managing the Civilian Recognition Program.”

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

13-year fugitive captured

By Maj. Mike Richmond

Air Force Office of Special Investigations Public Affairs

An airman who fled charges of committing indecent acts with children has been captured following a 13-year flight from justice.

Senior Airman Robert James Boehnlein was flown April 10 under guard from Guadalajara, Mexico, to Phoenix, where he was met by Office of Special Investigations agents and escorted to Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Boehnlein is being held in Luke's confinement facility while Air Force officials determine the disposition of his case.

Boehnlein disappeared from Randolph AFB in December 1988 while criminal charges for three sex-related acts against children were pending. Shortly after his disappearance, he was placed in fugitive status, and a charge of desertion was added.

Jennifer Baker, Randolph OSI Detachment 401 special agent who has run the investigation into Boehnlein's whereabouts since February 2001, said OSI officials had been zeroing in on Boehnlein's location since September 2000. His name was discovered on a State Department passport renewal form that listed his address in the central-Mexico city of Zapopan, near Guadalajara. Baker worked with U.S. Embassy officials in Mexico, U.S. State Department officials, and other U.S. and Mexican law-enforcement personnel to narrow the search.

The investigation revealed Boehnlein had applied for a permit to teach English at a school in Guadalajara. It was at the school that Boehnlein was identified on a class roster April 8, Baker said. Later that day, U.S. and Mexican officials finalized deportation plans.

Deportation, not extradition, was the legal means to remove Boehnlein from Mexico, because Mexican law's statute of limitations on the crimes he'd allegedly committed had expired, Baker said.

"Because extradition was off the table, we turned toward deportation and what legal means were available to make that happen," Baker said. "And that's when we uncovered some allegedly fraudulent information that he'd provided on a work-permit document that he had filed with the Mexican government."

Information was provided to Mexican officials and served as legal justification for Boehnlein's deportation, Baker said.

Mexican authorities and a regional security officer assigned to the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Security Service apprehended Boehnlein at the school April 9.

Hours later, the DSS officer and a Mexican police officer flew with him to Phoenix, where they turned him over to Baker and OSI Special Agents Julie Mendoza and Jac Christiansen. Mendoza and Christiansen are assigned to Det. 421 at Luke.

Special Agent Kevin Chen, assigned to OSI headquarters at Andrews AFB, Md., said Boehnlein is the 101st Air Force fugitive captured since OSI created a proactive fugitive-retrieval program in January 1995. A similar OSI deserter-apprehension program begun in February 2000 has led to the capture of 103 non-fugitive deserters.

Anti-terrorism: What can you do?

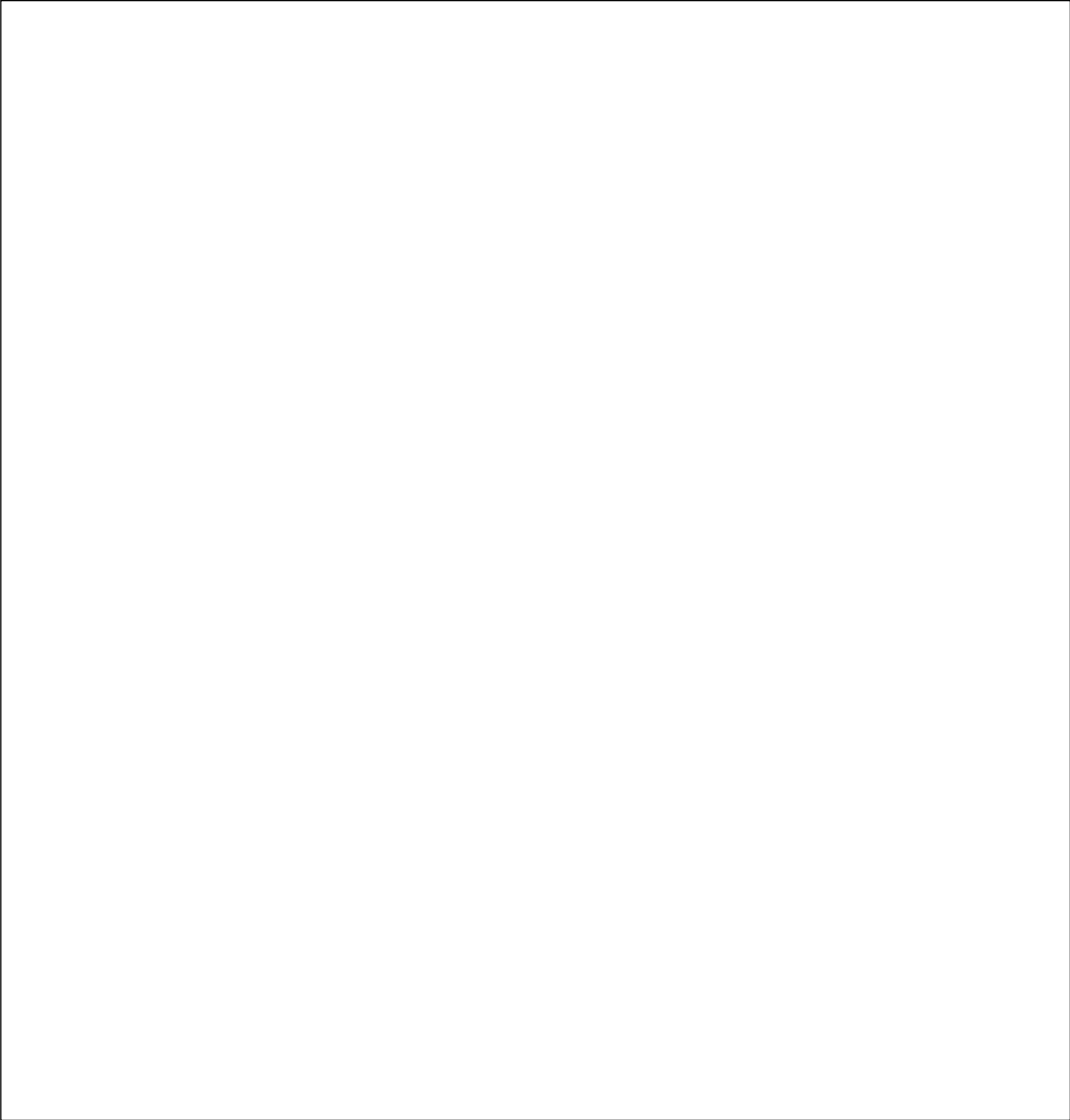
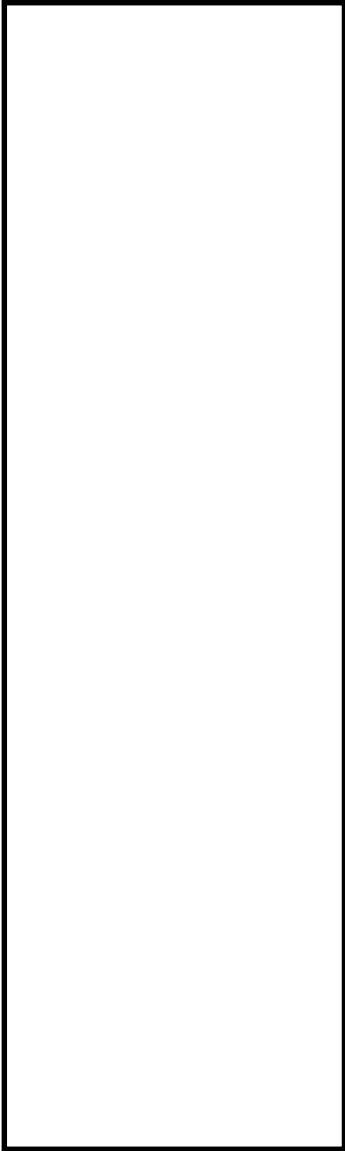
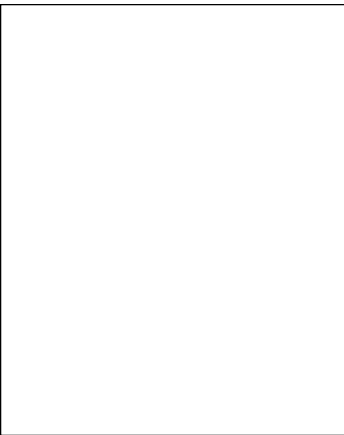
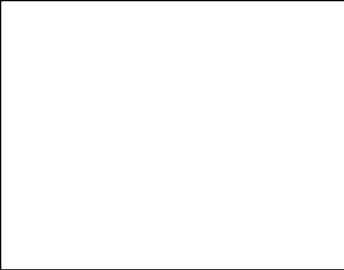
The best measure against anti-terrorism is preparation. For details, log on to www.redcross.org/services/disaster/keepsafe/unexpected.html.

Dino daze

Matthew Jung, 4, son of Capt. Tim and Kris Jung, visits with Barney at the Dino Daze Family Night Wednesday at the Fiesta Community Center. Several activities were on hand to keep base children occupied, including dinosaur games, face painting and a bouncy castle. Family nights are held monthly. For more information on family nights, call Helen Sykes at 298-5474.



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit



The venerable B-52: 50 years and counting

By **Raymond Puffer**

Air Force Print News

The B-52 Stratofortress, considered by many to be the Air Force's workhorse bomber, celebrated its 50th anniversary Monday.

On April 15, 1952, Boeing Co. test pilot "Tex" Johnson and the Air Force Flight Test Center's Lt. Col. Guy Townsend took the first B-52 on its maiden flight, from the Boeing runway in Seattle.

Although few people realized it then, the nation gained a strategic weapon that would outlive the Cold War. The new bomber had a number of design features that would make modifications and upgrades simple, leading to the bomber's long service life.

Boeing designers, aware that their thoroughbred B-47 Stratojet had barely enough wing area, gave the new plane a generous 4,000 square feet. This made the wingspan so long that it was necessary to develop an ingenious swivel action for the landing gear trucks that allowed the plane to yaw during crosswind landings so the wingtips wouldn't contact the runway.

The boxy fuselage contained landing gear, bomb bays and most of the fuel cells, but still had space for equipment additions and modifications.

The first two prototype aircraft were configured with tandem seats for the pilot and co-pilot, who sat beneath a long, fighter-style canopy.

Gen. Curtis LeMay, Strategic Air Command commander, directed a change to a side-by-side arrangement to improve communication between the pilots and provide space for more instrumentation. The XB-52 – the first prototype aircraft but the second to fly – arrived for evaluation Nov. 21, and was soon joined by the YB-52.

After that, the eight-engine bomber type never went away.

Townsend and Capt. William Magruder completed the flight test phase by the following June, and in July the YB-52 took off from Edwards' Rogers Dry Lake bed for an 11-hour basic radius test sortie. That flight confirmed the bomber's ability to take off with a heavy fuel load, fly more than 2,700 miles at combat altitude, conduct simulated combat maneuvers and return.

This capacity to project power on a global scale changed the entire strategic equation with the Soviet Union, and had immense effects on America's defense posture for the rest of the century.

A long series of airframe, engine and weapon system evaluations continued throughout the next two decades. These programs involved young AFFTC pilots and engineers such as Capt. Fitzhugh Fulton and Capt. Phil Conley Jr., who became AFFTC commander 20 years later.

The first three production B-52s were designated A models and arrived at Edwards AFB, Calif. for performance and stability testing



(Courtesy photo)

Brig. Gen. J. Stanley Holtner, then-commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., greets members of the crew who flew the first B-52 Stratofortress to Edwards for flight testing in April 1952.

March 3, 1955. One of these, tail number 003, was kept by Boeing for various test flight duties for the next 10 years. In November 1958, it was modified to an NB-52A and began service as an X-15 mother ship. NB-52B, tail number 008, arrived at Edwards for the same duty on June 11, 1959, and began a career of flight test support that has lasted until today.

A total of 744 B-52s were built with the last, a B-52H, delivered in October 1962. Only the H model

bombers are still in the Air Force inventory and are assigned to Air Combat Command and the Air Force Reserve.

The first of 102 B-52H's was delivered to Strategic Air Command in May 1961. The H model can carry up to 20 air launched cruise missiles. It can also carry the conventional cruise missile, the weapon that was launched in several contingencies during the 1990s, starting with Operation Desert Storm.

Retreat customs important

Compiled from
staff reports

Retreat is played Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. except on holidays and weekends.

When retreat sounds, certain courtesies should be rendered. People who are outside should stop what they are doing and face the flag

or the direction of the music.

Military people in uniform should stand at parade rest during the sounding of retreat, then come to attention and salute during the national anthem.

Civilian and military people who are not in uniform should stand at attention during the playing of the national anthem and place

their right hand over their hearts. A person in civilian attire should remove head-dress with his right hand and hold it over his heart.

People driving must stop the vehicle, and everyone in the vehicle should sit at attention and remain silent until the music ends. Getting out of the vehicle and saluting is also an option.



Laughlin Salutes

Awards

**AETC Airfield Operations
Complex of the Year**

♦ Laughlin tower, radar
approach control and base
operations

**AETC Airfield Operations
Officer of the Year**

♦ Capt. David Merritt, 47th
Operations Support Squadron
airfield operations flight
commander

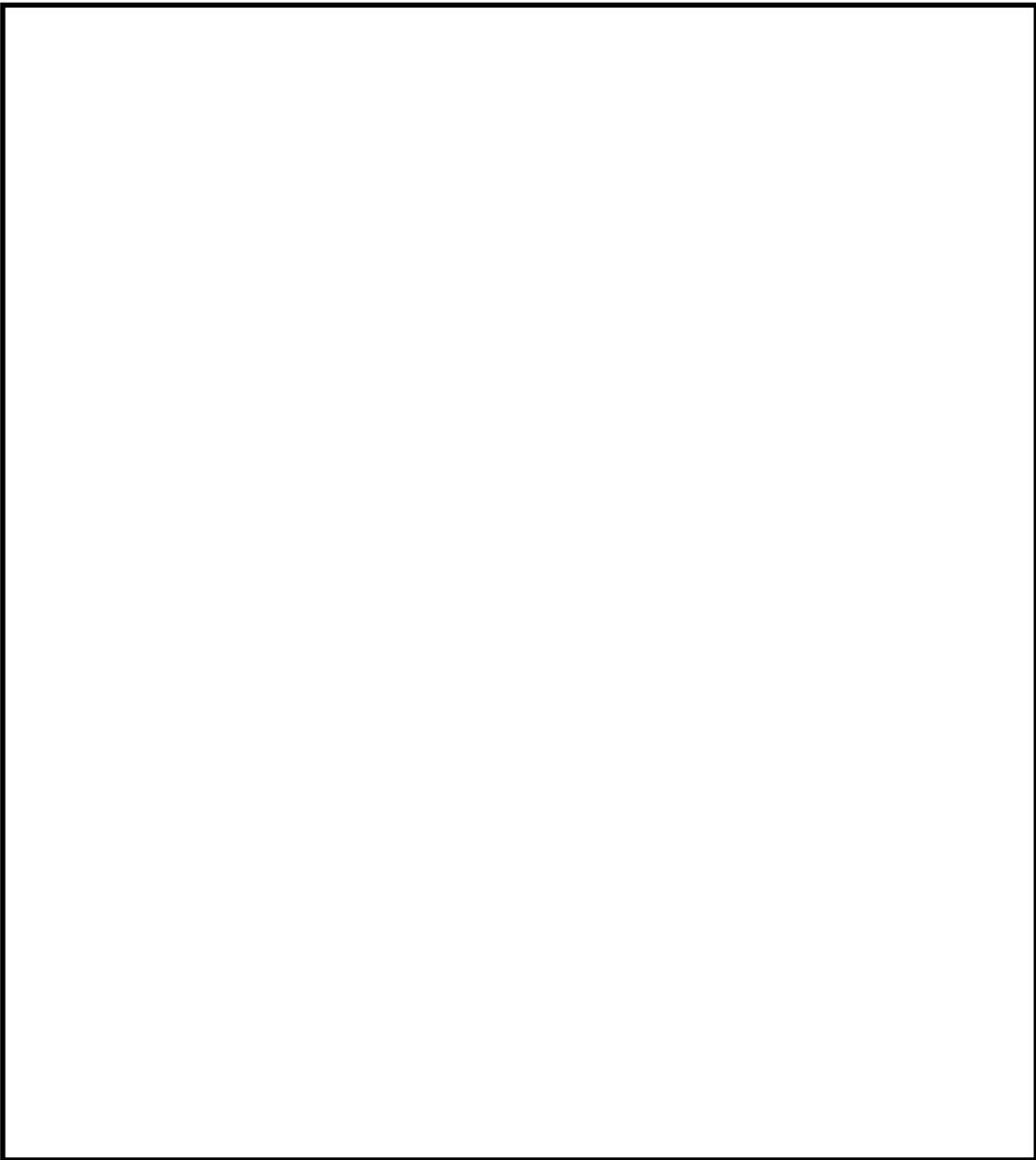
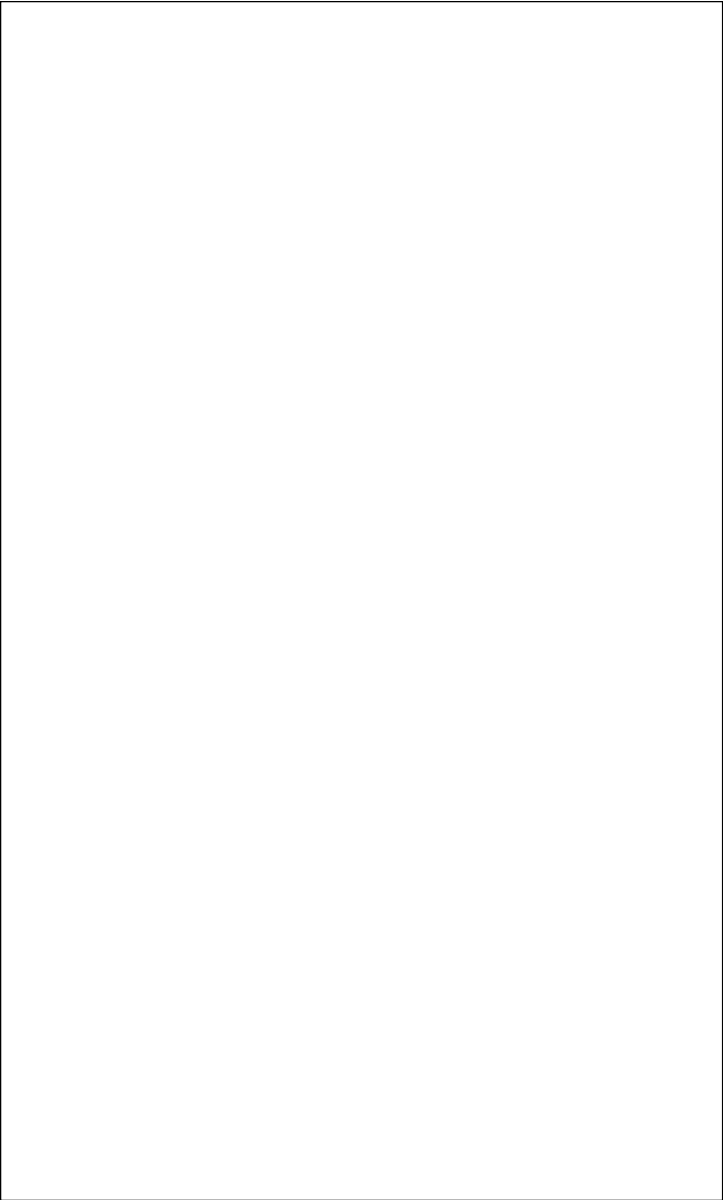
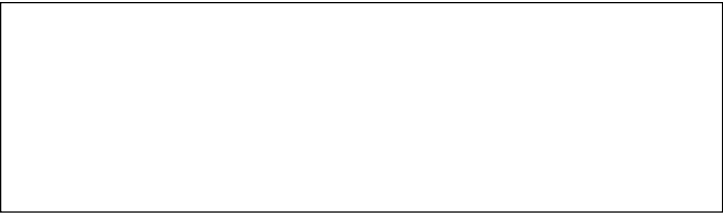
**AETC Enlisted Manager
of the Year**

♦ Master Sgt. Jerauld Smith,
47th Operations Support
Squadron tower chief
controller

HonorGuard

Member of the Month

♦ Senior Airman Natosha
Blevins, 47th Security Forces
Squadron



Chapel Schedule



Catholic

Saturday

5 p.m., Mass

Sunday

• 9:30 a.m., Mass

• 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture
Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall

Thursday

6 p.m., Choir

Tuesday-

• 12:05 p.m., Mass

Friday

• 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days
of Obligation

Reconciliation Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday
from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment

Religious Education/

Bible Study

11 a.m. and noon Sunday

Jewish

Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

Call Dr. Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

Friday

7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

Protestant

Sunday

11 a.m., General worship

Wednesday

• 12:30-2:15 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.,
Women's Bible Study at chapel
• 6 p.m., Choir at chapel

**For more information on chapel
events and services,
call 298-5111.**

The *XLer*



Photo by Senior Airman Brad Pettit

Stephanie Jones

Laughlin volunteer

Hometown:

Aurora, Colo.

Family: Staff Sgt.

Charles Jones,

Charles Jr. and Dario

Time at Laughlin:

3 years

Greatest accomplish-

ment: My kids

Hobbies: Dancing,
bowling and doing
things with my family

Bad habit: Bingo

**If you could spend
one hour with any
person, who would it
be and why?** With
my husband because
he is in Korea

**Interested in
the Air Force?**
*Call Del Rio's
Air Force
recruiter at
774-0911.*

If you know of or suspect Fraud Waste and
Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

Sportslines

Track and field spots available

All active-duty people interested in competing for a spot on the Air Force track and field team must submit Air Force Form 303 to the XL Fitness Center by Saturday. Forms are available at the fitness center.

For more information, call Tech Sgt. Rick Horn at 298-5251 or Tom Kerr at 298-5326.

Bowling standings

Team	Points	Team	Points
Boeing	134-90	Services	114-110
OSS	133-91	CE	102-122
DeCA	122-102	Commtracting	92-132
FTW	120-104	SFS	79-145

Skin cancer: the scary side of summer

By Capt.
Lisa Firestone
47th Medical Group
flight surgeon

Summer. The word alone makes people smile as they conjure up images of days at the lake, poolside parties, barbecues and long, lazy afternoons relaxing in the sun. But there can be a darker side to the carefree mood of summer: sun exposure.

The sun produces two types of radiation, ultraviolet A and B. These harmful UV rays are more intense in the summer, at higher altitudes and closer to the equator. The UV Index predicts the ultraviolet intensity in a given location. This can be found in the weather section of most newspapers.

UVB rays have been associated with sunburn. Their intensity varies with the sun strength and can be blocked with glass and clothing. UVA rays produce a penetrating radiation that has been linked to skin cancer. These rays are invisible and can work their damage even when the recipient shows no visible sunburn. UVA rays are constant throughout the day despite cloud cover and can penetrate almost all car glass, even tinted windows.

However, since these effects are not visible for many years, people are often unaware of the dangers of sun exposure. Approximately 80 percent of sun damage occurs before the age of 18. More than 1.3 million new skin cancer cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year.

Those with dark skin are also at risk. Premature aging

of the skin (think wrinkles) occurs in everyone who is repeatedly exposed to the sun over a long period of time. The damage may take longer to show up in people with darker skin.

How big is your risk? A person's skin type determines his or her risk level. These skin types are listed below.

■ Pale white skin always burns and never tans.

■ White skin burns easily and tans minimally.

■ White, average-color skin burns moderately and tans to light brown.

■ Beige or lightly tanned skin burns minimally and always tans well to brown

■ Moderate brown or tanned skin rarely burns and tans profusely to dark.

■ Dark brown or black skin never burns and is deeply pigmented

Protect yourself. Unless you are you looking forward to the pain of a sunburn, premature wrinkles and the possibility of cancer, incorporate the following tips into your lifestyle to avoid sun damage.

■ Avoid the sun's strongest rays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

■ Wear protective clothing, including broad-rimmed hats, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.

■ White fabrics like loose-knit cotton and wet clothes that cling to your skin only provide a sun protection factor (SPF) of 2-3.

■ Wear sunglasses with 100 percent UV ray protection.

■ Sunscreens absorb, reflect or scatter the sun's rays on the skin, so apply SPF 15 or greater 20-30 minutes before going outdoors.

■ Sunblock should provide good coverage for both UVA and UVB rays.

■ Look for waterproof and sweatproof sunscreen formulations and reapply after swimming or strenuous activity.

■ Don't forget, your neck, face, ears and hands (the most common sites for skin cancer) are constantly exposed while in uniform, so apply SPF daily to these areas.

■ Apply SPF even in the winter and on cloudy days as UV rays are still present.

■ Protect your children from the sun as most lifetime sun exposure occurs before the age of 20.

What if the damage has already been done? The three most common types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma.

Basal cell carcinomas usually develop on the face, ears, nose and mouth of fair-skinned individuals. They can start as a red patch or bump that is pink, red or white. This type of cancer can be cured if treated early.

Squamous cell carcinoma appears as a scaly patch or raised warty growth. When treated early it, too, has a good cure rate.

Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer. It usually appears as a dark brown or black mole-like patch with irregular edges. If this cancer is not found early it can spread quickly and be fatal.

See your physician if you have any questions regarding sun protection, skin cancer or unusual sores or moles on your body.

Poor health, lost income, jail, discharge...**Ecstasy?** Maybe they should change the name.